

Tuition benefits for military spouses

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Tanya Biank, Staff Reporter**

Military spouses can now register for free college courses through an online university scholarship program. The American Military University's Spouse Schoolmates Scholarship Program is providing 2,500 scholarships worth \$3.7 million to military spouses for undergraduate education in 2002.

"We hope it will be popular," said Del Bender, an Army retiree and the AMU field representative at Fort Bragg. "It's a one-of-a-kind program. It is the only program we know of in the nation that is specifically geared for military spouses."

The scholarship program, which was launched last month in Washington, allows spouses of service members who are taking AMU courses to enroll for free.

"They don't even have to pay for books," said Terry Grant, the program's director. "And that's unheard of."

Grant said 85 percent of the wives of enlisted men do not have bachelor's degrees.

"There is a need," she said. "There is definitely a need. Spouse employment and education is a big issue."

The spouse can register for the same number of courses as the service member and can take any course offered by AMU, Grant said.

Spouses of active-duty, Reserve and National Guard service members are eligible. The scholarship covers \$750 per course. Students must maintain a 2.5 grade point average. Classes start the first Monday of every month. Students can take four-, eight- or 15-week courses.

"With other grants, loans and scholarships you have to prove how bad off you are," Grant said. "You don't have to bare your financial soul to us."

Facts about West Nile virus

**By: SSgt. Nicole Blakely
179th Medical Squadron**

West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito, and can infect people, horses, many types of birds and some other animals.

Most people who become infected with West Nile virus will have either no symptoms or only mild ones. However, on rare occasions, West Nile virus infection can result in severe and sometimes fatal illnesses.

There is no evidence to suggest that West Nile virus can be spread from person to person or from animal to person.

To protect yourself from potential exposure to West Nile Virus: Apply insect repellent containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) when you are outdoors.

When possible, wear long-sleeved clothes and long pants treated with repellents containing permethrin or DEET since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing. Do not apply repellents containing permethrin directly to exposed skin. If you spray your clothing, there is no need to spray repellent containing DEET on the skin under your clothing.

Consider staying indoors at dawn, dusk and in the early evening, which are peak mosquito biting times.

Limit the number of places available for mosquitoes to lay their eggs by eliminating standing water sources from around your home.



Mansfield firefighters re-enact the memorable scene from 9-11-01.

179th Food Drive

Services Squadron is sponsoring a holiday food drive to support the Mansfield Outreach Mission on 3rd St. Non-perishable foods can be dropped off in Services during the Oct., Nov. and Dec. UTAs.